

CITY OF BELLEVUE
CITY COUNCIL

Summary Minutes of Special Meeting
Performing Arts Breakfast

April 30, 2001
7:30 a.m.

Bellevue Art Museum
Bellevue, Washington

Attendees:

Mayor Chuck Mosher
Deputy Mayor Connie Marshall
Councilmember Mike Creighton
Councilmember Don Davidson
Councilmember Grant Degginger
Councilmember Conrad Lee
Councilmember Phil Noble

City Manager Steve Sarkozy
Finance Director Ed Oberg
PCD Director Matt Terry
Mary Pat Byrne, Arts Specialist

Annette Cleaves, Bellevue Arts Commission
Ann De Laurenti, Bellevue Arts Commission
Margaret Lowe, Bellevue Arts Commission

Diane Douglas, Bellevue Art Museum

Jim Elias, Pacific Northwest Ballet
Peter Horvitz, Pacific Northwest Ballet
Cathi Hatch, Pacific Northwest Ballet

Greg Murray, Music Works Northwest
Alan Melrose, Music Works Northwest
Carol Borgmann, Music Works Northwest

Barbara George, Bellevue Philharmonic
John Matheson, Bellevue Philharmonic

Stacy Graven, Meydenbauer Center
Bob Wallace, BCCA Board President

Betty Nokes, Bellevue Chamber of Commerce
Peter Armato, Bellevue Downtown Association

Peter Donnelly, Corporate Council for the Arts

Alan Fulp (Past BDA President), Charter Bank

Joan Wallace, Wallace Properties

Sally Gray, Dain Rauscher

David Schooler, Sterling Realty Organization

1. Welcome and Introductions

Mayor Mosher called the meeting to order at 7:45 a.m. and welcomed attendees. He said the purpose of the meeting was to gauge the interest of the community's arts and business leaders in the creation of a performing arts center in Bellevue.

2. Discussion of Performance Arts Center Concept

Representatives of arts and business organizations expressed enthusiastic support of a performing arts center. Regarding the size of such a facility, Mr. Matheson envisions a facility with seating for 1,500

or more. Mr. Elias concurred. Mr. Horvitz spoke in favor of a facility that could accommodate 1,500 to 2,000 attendees. Mr. Murray encouraged incorporation of an educational component.

The group then discussed funding options. Mr. Horvitz estimated that \$20-30 million could be raised within the private sector for a performing arts center. Mr. Schooler commented that substantial public funds will be needed as well. Ms. Douglas compared the performing arts center to the recently completed Bellevue Art Museum project, which shifted from an arts initiative to a civic undertaking. She feels this is an important project for Bellevue and estimated a cost of \$70-80 million.

Mayor Mosher confirmed Council's interest in establishing a performing arts center. Councilmember Lee was encouraged by the community's support and acknowledged the importance of considering local participation and needs.¹

Mr. Horvitz and Ms. George expressed support for incorporating an educational component into the performing arts center.

Councilmember Davidson said the feasibility of such a center was studied in 1982 and 1983. He suggested the need for a bond initiative and voter approval if a Performing Arts Center is to become a reality.

Councilmember Degginger is optimistic about the potential for private sector fund-raising but noted competing priorities for public monies such as a public safety facility and open space proposals.

Councilmember Noble noted the benefits of establishing a performing arts center. He feels the success of Meydenbauer Center and the Bellevue Art Museum demonstrate strong community support for Bellevue's role as a cultural center.

Mr. Horvitz suggested studying Seattle's example of linking a performing arts center bond issue to other regional/local needs as was done with the Seattle Opera House. He feels the center must secure public and private commitment from the outset.

Mayor Mosher thanked everyone for their participation and noted the Council heard strong support from the private sector, arts groups, and community leaders.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 a.m.

Michelle Murphy for
Myrna L. Basich, City Clerk

¹ See additional clarifying comments made at the May 21, 2001, Regular Session.